

UNLESS YE HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN

1 Cor 15:1-2

1 Corinthians 15:1 *Moreover, Brethren:* Attention all who are born again *I declare ...* make you to understand message of gospel I have declared *Ye have received:* chosen to associate yourself with ... internalized ...believed ...*ye stand:* built your faith upon it.

1 Corinthians 15:2 ...*ye are saved,* Upon believing ... loosed you, set free from penalty and power of sin.

...*if ye keep in memory:* If firmly believed what preached. If hold fast what preached to you.

...*believed in vain.* believed without reason. Didn't believe it in first place.

Unless your faith is useless and without effect

Not saying be concerned about losing salvation.

This is a warning against false faith...non-saving faith.

The fact that the Corinthians were keeping in memory or holding fast to the message preached by Paul was evidence of genuine salvation.

I. Those who profess and possess

A. Everlasting life: John 3:16

B. Quench spiritual thirst forever: John 4:14

C. Give a gift that will never be lost: John 6:37,39

D. Keep us in His hand, never to be taken from Him: John 10:28,29

E. Give us a foundation that never destroyed: 2 Tim 2:19

F. Give us inheritance that never fade away: 1 Pet 1:4,5

G. Rom 8:29-30; 8:36-39; Rom 5:10

Phillips *If, while we were his enemies, Christ reconciled us to God by dying for us, surely now that we are reconciled we may be perfectly certain of our salvation through his living in us.*

II. Those who profess but don't possess... *believed in vain*

Mac: A professing Christian who holds to orthodox doctrine and living and then fully rejects it proves that his salvation was never real. He is able to let go of the things of God because he is doing the holding. He does not belong to God and therefore God's power cannot keep him. Such a person does not **hold fast the word** because his faith is **in vain**. It was never real. He cannot hold fast because he is not held fast.

Unless ye have believed in vain....

Barnes: ...unless all your profession is false and hollow, you will be saved by this great doctrine which I first preached to you.

Bible Knowledge Commentary To reject bodily resurrection eviscerated "the gospel" and made faith vain Unless one holds firmly, his belief is "in vain."

A. Parable of sower: Matt 13

B. Fish in net (13:47-50)

C. Houses without foundations (Matt 7:24-27)

D. Virgins without oil for lamps

E. Servants who wasted their talents were "cast out." (Matt 25:1-10).

F. Gates and paths....(Matt 7:13-14)

G. Demons who believe (Ja 2:19)

H. Jesus: Matt 7:22-23 "Lord, Lord"

I. Misc. 1 John 2:19; John 8:31; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 John 9; 1 John 3:4-10

1 Corinthians 15:2 ...*unless ye have believed in vain.* unless you never really believed it in the first place

So what?

Personal relationship with Christ

Presentation of the Gospel